

Volume 2, Issue 2
Summer 2010



Endless Possibilities

BEHAVIOUR INTERVENTION & THERAPY SERVICES

Newsletter

A specialized treatment centre offering children options for better learning and coping skills.

MISSION STATEMENT

We are committed to excellence in program delivery and the success of each and every child we work with. Our passionate and dedicated staff strive to achieve every treatment objective using the most innovative and creative strategies possible.

We measure our success by your child's gains!

EPA's Special Points of Interest:

- Autism Link
- Summer Social Skills Program (SSP)
- Autism & Fun!
- Autism Speaks—Walk Now for Autism
- Centre Closure
- Check your Knowledge

Autism Link to Missing Genes

A study conducted in Canada, the United States and Europe analyzed the genetic data of 1,000 subjects who have been diagnosed with autism and 1,300 subjects who have not. The study revealed that children with autism had gene mutations in forms of duplicated or missing pieces of DNA.

The gene mutations varied from being passed down from one parent and being developed during conception. These mutations seem to control how the brain cells grow and communicate. However, the study also revealed that the genetic causes of autism are more complex than originally thought.

The theory that suggests that autism is caused partly by numerous genetic variants is supported through this study. As well, the study proved that the tests used can be applied to identifying autistic children.

This study brings hope to finding the reasons behind autism and a future of finding solutions.

Please note the centre now offers counselling for adolescents with ASD's and other learning disabilities as well as psycho-education. Please check our website for more information.

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Social Skills Program (SSP) Summer SSP—

The Summer Social Skills program was full of exciting activities and skill learning. The children interacted with each other at the centre, as well as on the community outings.

During the first session the children learned *turn-taking with peers and in groups*, and during the lesson they waited nicely and used appropriate



language ask for a turn. The group was then treated to a afternoon of cosmic bowling at Stellar Lanes in Newmarket.

In the second session *sharing with peers and in a group* was the targeted lesson, allowing the children to practice waiting and asking to share the toys. After learning to share the children went to the playground where they enjoyed structured play with their peers. The third session was a special day for the children, they went to the movie theatre to watch “Toy Story” in 3-D, and they all sat very nicely and quietly.

The importance of *manners* was introduced in the fourth week, and the children brainstormed different ways to be polite in social settings. The significance and importance of “please” and “thank

you” were taught, as well as when it is appropriate to use quiet, normal and loud voices. The children then spent the afternoon at Brooks Farm, visiting farm animal, going through the corn maze and riding the Brooks Farm “train.”

Pretend play with peers and *pretend play in groups* was taught in the fifth week. The children each chose a character and then acted out a list of activities. Later that day, the group visited the Richmond Green Sports Centre & Park to play in the Splash Pad. In the last week the children learned how to *initiate and respond to a play invite* using textual cues. The children were paired up and rotated amongst activities.

The children did an amazing job this session and we look forward to our next session of social skills in the fall.

Autism & Fun!



Summer Holidays—Plan Wisely

Now that school is out and the *hot* weather has descended upon us, parents are scrambling to register their children in summer programming. This is a particular challenge however as children with exceptionalities have very specific needs. Parents have to carefully screen these programs to ensure they can accommodate their children’s needs as well as ensure the camps will do what they purport to do. Gains made over the school year can quickly dissipate in the form of a sharp incline in behaviours if the choice the parents make is not the right one.

Summer is an opportune time to intensify IBI programming; register for

social skills programs, workshops or camps *run by trained and qualified staff*. Focus on small group camps/workshops/programs (4-6 max.) as these increase the opportunity for better support (aim for 1:2 or 1:3 ratio) — although it will cost more, you will certainly reap the benefits as behaviours should stay reasonably moderate ... and we all know how important that is!

Most unstructured programs unfortunately do not have the *qualified trained* staff to meet the needs of children with exceptionalities. These include some well known camps which have been around for a while and purport to specialize in the field. However, most often than not the

‘staff’ are high school or university students with little or no experience working with children with exceptionalities. To compound the problem the staff is more interested in socializing with their peers rather than attend to their charge(s) thus leaving the children with little or no support at all.

Parents are encouraged to educate themselves and chose wisely *before* registering their children with any camp. Remember to always send an IT to ensure behaviours are properly managed and the child maximizes the benefits of the camp — *after all* that was the parents initial goal—*wasn’t it?*

Autism Speaks—Walk Now For Autism

The 6th Annual Walk Now for Autism Speaks took place in Toronto on June 20th. The Endless PossABILITIES team participated for our 2nd walk and

with lots of sunshine beaming on all of us, everyone set out on the 3km walk in the team's brightly coloured t-shirts. This year the EPA team raised \$2,000 thus far and still counting! With 25 participants and a brisk pace, a good time was had by all.



Endless PossABILITIES is continuing to raise awareness and funds for autism research through participating in the Puzzle Piece Campaign.

Thank you to everyone who participated and so generously donated to this worth cause!

AUTISM SPEAKS
**WALK NOW
FOR AUTISM**



Autism Resolution Ontario - Protests at G20

The parents of Autism Resolution Ontario demonstrated across from Queen's Park during the G20 summit, to demonstrate "against Ontario's inadequate, neglectful and harmful autism intervention policies."

In spite of the rain and ARO's banner poles being confiscated by police, because of potential weapons, the parents continued to cry "Stop the autism crisis! ABA NOW!" The ARO wanted to ensure that their mission of having more accessible ABA therapy for children with autism was being heard by the public, other protestors and the media.

The ARO was not alone in protesting during the G20. They were joined by many colourful flags, banners, music and chants in many different languages, all voicing their frustrations. The Canadian Labour Congress, Greenpeace and other groups were also at protesting at the park, regardless of the weather and other factors.

ARO's G20 protest action was part of their "main strategy of leading an ongoing, high-impact, province-wide creative protest campaign to promote the need for timely, sufficient, high-quality and individualized government-funded ABA therapy for kids with autism in all relevant environments, including school."



Please note the centre will be closed from July 17th to August 1st, 2010 inclusive for staff holidays.



Check us out !

www.endlesspossibilities.ca

Endless Poss**ABILITIES**

BEHAVIOUR INTERVENTION
& THERAPY SERVICES

Providing the building blocks to better learning!

***Servicing Children
in the Regions of:***

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Simcoe South
Durham
Peel**

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... making footprints in the sand!

Check your Knowledge—

Answer the following questions to see how many you can answer.

1. What is DTT?
2. ABA principles are only used to treat Autism?
3. What does instructional control mean?
4. What is NET?
5. True or False? Early Intervention only works with higher functioning children.
6. What does QFF mean?
7. How do you manage non compliance?
8. What is PDD Nos.?
9. Name two disorders under the ASD umbrella.
10. True or False? Autism is a life long disorder?